



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2965
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RYAN FLYNN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 11, 2014

Ms. Sherry Burt-Kested, Manager
Environmental Services
Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company
P.O. Box 10
Bayard, New Mexico 88023

**RE: Approval of Vegetation Monitoring Report for “Golf Course” Interim Remedial Action
Smelter\Tailing Soils Investigation Unit (STSIU)
Chino Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)**

Dear Ms. Burt-Kested:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the ARCADIS submittal titled, *Vegetation Monitoring Report for “Golf Course” Interim Remedial Action, Smelter\Tailing Soils Investigation Unit* (Report) received May 14, 2014. The Report was prepared by ARCADIS on behalf of Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Chino Mines Company (Chino). Chino has sufficiently addressed the informal comments NMED submitted via email on April 25, 2014. NMED accepts this revised document as written, and Chino may cease vegetation monitoring for the Golf Course Interim Remedial Action based on re-establishment of the plant community and canopy coverage within the disturbed areas.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (575)-956-1550.

Sincerely,

Matt Schultz, Chino AOC Project Manager
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Silver City Field Office

Ms. Sherry Burt-Kested

7/11/14

Page 2

cc: Petra Sanchez, USEPA (via email)
Kurt Vollbrecht, NMED (via email)
Joseph Fox, NMED (via email)
Ned Hall, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold (via email)
Pam Pinson, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company (via email)